

Student Advisory Working Group

(Kent and Sussex Counties)

Meeting Notes

Saturday July 21, 2018

Three members of the College and Career Readiness Student Advisory Group attended the meeting.

Introductions

Students participated in an activity where they imagined where they would be by age 25 and the path they took to get there. They were asked to think through who helped them the most and what challenges they faced.

Participating students mentioned that they selected the careers they want to pursue due to exposure they have received from family members and other individuals in their life. They mentioned that this exposure was a critical element in helping them learn more about opportunities that are out there. Careers that they were interested in included becoming a lawyer, doctor, and nurse. It was brought up that not all of their classmates are fortunate enough to have this same exposure, and that for some, there is a disconnect between high school performance and career aspirations.

Students mentioned that they feel current supports in the school setting are dependent on students being proactive and determining what they want to do and how to do it instead of helping them navigate the entire process of identifying potential careers and developing a path forward to achieving those goals. They also mentioned that they didn't really take the Student Success Plans seriously.

Program Design

Students had a favorable opinion of the program design. Elements they really liked included:

- Year 1 check-ins in college; they felt that this is a huge transition and it is important to have that support network
- Tutoring
- College visits

Concerns included:

- Getting all students, particularly those who need support the most, to utilize the program

Talking to Students about Career Planning

Students mentioned that the internet is their primary source of information and that they do see value in online ratings if there is a general consensus. They focus their research on the first few web hits, so it is important to make sure that any program websites are listed first on search engines.

They still utilize email, and prefer to use a website to find information over social media, although they said social media is a useful way to introduce the website to students.

They think that using the word college to describe this work can be intimidating to students that may not be pursuing a 4-year degree, however, they weren't really sure of any alternative words that could be used.

Follow Up

The students will be asking 5 of their classmates the following questions to get their ideas on college and career readiness:

1. Which college search tool is the most useful to you?
2. Who helped you the most in relation to figuring out your plans for college and your desired career? How did they help?
3. What is your motivation for your post high school plans?
4. Does the amount of schooling required make you more likely to choose one career over another?
5. What does the word college mean to you?

The next meeting will be held in October and they were asked to invite some of their classmates to attend.